



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 17, 1997

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

No. P 074 976 877

Wendell Owen
Co-Op Mining Company
P. O. Box 1245
Huntington, Utah 84528

Re: Water Monitoring Data Review, Birch Springs, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025,
Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

In accordance with Technical Directive 005, Review and Interpretation of Water Monitoring Data, the Division is hereby informing you of an implied issue at the Birch Spring water monitoring site, SBC-5, based on the previous several quarters of quarterly water monitoring reports from Co-Op Mining Company.

The Division hydrologist assigned to your mine, Sharon Falvey has graphed flow rates at Birch Spring starting at 1985. A period of several years in the 1980s shows very little seasonal fluctuations with flow at about 80 gallons per minute. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, some disruption or changes began to occur. Currently, as reported in your most recent monitoring report, the flow is 16 gallons per minute. This is 20% of the historical flow.

Below are the review steps and procedures taken from the Review and Interpretation of Water Monitoring Data directive.

3. *Procedure....*

- C. *The CRP will review incoming water quality data within 30 days of receipt to identify implied issues and evaluate alleged problems.*
- D. *The CRP will contact the permittee for analysis of the data or implied issue. Issues resulting from a citizen's complaint will continue to be processed as outlined in R645-400-242 and R645-400-211 et seq.*
- E. *If an explanation is presented and satisfies the CRP, then a memo will be prepared and filed into that mine's water quality file (Folder #7).*

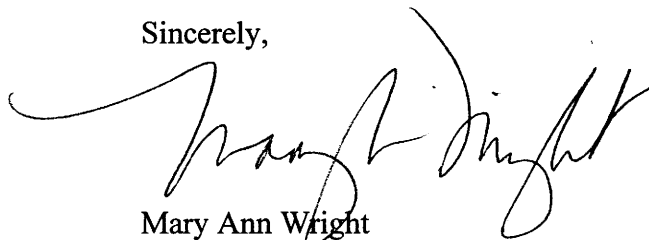
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- F. *If no solution or explanation is acceptable, the issue is brought forth to the CRP in-house peer review group and the permittee. If an explanation is agreed upon within this group then a memo will be prepared and filed in that mine's water quality file (Folder #7).*
- G. *If no explanation is acceptable under step 3F, development of an Action Plan will be recommended through issuance of a Division Order. A copy of the Division Order will be forwarded to all parties of interest.*
- H. *The Action Plan is developed by the permittee and submitted to the Division. Development of the Action Plan at this step does not preclude involvement by the parties of interest.*
- I. *The Action Plan is forwarded to parties of interest.*
- J. *The CRP and the permittee will evaluate and report to the parties of interest on the effectiveness of the Action Plan.*

Pursuant to section 3D (above) of Technical Directive 005, this letter is notification that the recent flow at Birch Spring is 20 percent of the historic flow of 80 gallons per minute. The Division's Coal Regulatory Program hereby requires Co-Op Mining Company to provide an analysis for the loss of flow and continued decline. This analysis must be submitted within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Please call me at 538-5306 or Ken Wyatt at 538-5266, if you have any questions concerning this letter or the required analysis.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director of Mining

vb
cc: C. Reynolds, Co-Op Mining Company
L. Braxton
K. Wyatt
S. Falvey

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